

March 28, 2008

Member of the California State Legislature  
C/O Assemblymember Jim Beall, Jr.  
California State Capitol  
Room 5016  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Legislator:

I am writing to support Assembly Bill 1823 (Beall) to be heard on the Assembly Floor. AB 1883 would require each multi-agency juvenile justice coordinating council include the county Alcohol and Drug Program Administrator.

The Juvenile Crime Enforcement and Accountability Challenge Grant Program, administered by the Board of Corrections, awards grants to local governments for the purpose of reducing juvenile crime and delinquency. To be eligible for these grants, each county is required to establish a multi-agency juvenile justice coordinating council responsible for developing and instituting responses to local juvenile crime issues.

Currently, there is no requirement for the County Alcohol and Drug Program Administrator to be a member of council. As substance abuse drives much of adolescent criminal behavior such as; delinquency, school failure and teen pregnancy, if not treated it can lead a child into a lifetime of crime, addiction and destruction.

The County Alcohol and Drug Program Administrator oversees all of the publicly funded treatment services in their county and is the only official who can speak on behalf of the public system of care for substance abuse.. The administrator has the most current data on trends and available federal, state, and local funding. For these reasons, the participation of the Alcohol & Drug Program Administrator is essential to the continued success of the juvenile justice program process.

The state legislature has the opportunity to correct this oversight in current law and send the message that alcohol and drug prevention and treatment is a critical component to reducing juvenile crime and delinquency. I urge you to support AB 1823.

Best regards,

Name  
Address